THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): The subsidy given to a LPG cylinder of 14.2kg for domestic use is about Rs. 68 and about Rs. 2.79 per litre of kerosene (S.K.O.).

Approval for the Kandla-Bhatinda Pipeline Project

2793. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that though Government had approved the Kandla-Bhatinda pipeline project in 1989, yet the contract of the project has not been awarded to any company so far; if so, the reasons for such a long delay;

(b) the names of the companies which participated in the technical and price biddings and the price quoted by each party;

(c) whethr it is also a fact that World Bank had advised Indian Oil Corporation to treat the bidding of a Indo-Italian Company as "non-responsive", if so, the ground on which this advice was made; and

(d) what are the details of norms relating to tenders and which company tops in satisfying those norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) The award of the contract has not taken place as revised cost estimates for the project are still to be finalised.

(b) The companies who participated in the Bids are: (1) Consortium led by M/s. Skodaexport, Czechoslovakia; and (2) M/s. Snamprogetti, Italy. The price bids have been revised by the parties from time to time.

(c) and (d) The bid of Consortium led by M/s. Snamprogetti, Italy, was considered "non-responsive" in consultation with the World Bank on grounds of deviation taken by the bidder in their technical and commercial conditions, leaving the other bid in the field.

Decline in ONGC Production Target

2794. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC production targets as well as profits have declined during the year 1991-92; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that this down swing is due to inherent structural infirmities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reasons for shortfall in crude oil production include reservoir constraints, law and order problem in the Norh-Eastern region, etc.

The reasons for decline in profits include reduced production of crude oil; increased input costs; increased recouped cost towards depletion charges and expensing of dry wells; and increased interest cost.

Import and production of LPG

2795. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state;

(a) what is the quantity of LPG produced in the country in 1992 upto December 31st 1992;

(b) what is the quantity of LPG imported during this period; and

(c) what are the steps proposed to be taken to reduce LPG imports in 1993?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM